

NEW YORK ENACTS “MOVE OVER” LAW

On August 13, 2010, Governor David Paterson signed into law the “Ambrose-Searles Move Over Act” which will go into effect on January 1, 2011. The new law requires highway motorists to move over or slow down when approaching a parked authorized emergency vehicle whose emergency lights are flashing.

This makes New York the 48th state to adopt a “move over” law, leaving only Maryland and Hawaii without such legislation. Drivers who failure to “exercise due care” when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle could be fined up to \$275 plus state surcharges of \$80 to \$85, could be sentenced to a maximum of 15 days in jail, and could have up to 3 points put on their driver’s license.

This law has long been sought by police officers and other emergency personnel who are often killed or injured by drivers who fail to use caution when passing emergency personnel on the highway.